Portugal set down in the Far East, has subsisted largely on Its dubious gains from gambling and opium.

While the Portuguese were journeying eastward, the Spaniards were coming westward. The Spanish expedition led by the Portuguese Magellan circumnavigated the globe in the first quarter of the sixteenth century, Magellan himself losing his life in the Philippines (1521). Before the century was out, the Spaniards had firmly established themselves in the islands with Manila (founded 1571) as their capital. For a few years in the first half of the seventeenth century the Spaniards also had posts in Formosa, but from these they were driven by the Dutch in 1642.

In their occupation of the Philippines the Spaniards found the Chinese a fairly constant problem. Soon after the beginning of their conquest they were attacked by a Chinese pirate, seconded by a Japanese. Chinese migrated to the islands and much of the business of Manila passed into their hands. The Spaniards, alarmed, met the problem by the simple but cruel expedient of wholesale massacres: in 1603 and again in 1639 insurrections of Chinese were suppressed by putting thousands to the sword. In spite of these disasters, the Chinese persisted in coming.

Before the downfall of the Ming the Dutch had arrived in China. In 1622 they made an unsuccessful attack on Macao, and then obtained a foothold in the Pescadores and a little later in Formosa. From this latter island they were driven by Koxinga.

Not far from the end of the Ming, moreover, a fourth European people, the English, destined two centuries later to have so important a part in the foreign affairs of the Empire, had made

their first effort to open trade with the Middle Kingdom. In 1637 a squadron of five vessels arrived at Macao, proceeded to Canton—silencing the batteries which attempted to oppose their passage to that city—and disposed of their cargo. This troubled opening of relations was a grim augury of the future.

From the North, the Russians began to make their appearance. Adventurers who were pushing the frontiers of the Czar eastward crossed the borders of China, and before the Manchu conquest some had even visited Peking.

Under the Ming the merchants from Europe had no success in penetrating far inland. It was with great difficulty, indeed, that they obtained even a temporary entrance into the coast cities.